This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

      1.   (Currently Amended) A method for a search framework to provide search functionality to a web server across at least two search providers, the search framework being interposed between the web server and each of the search providers, said method comprising in the search framework:

      registering a first search method ~~adapted to perform~~ for performing searches on a first of said at least two search providers;

      registering a second search method ~~adapted to perform~~ for performing searches on a second of said at least two search providers;

      registering a first response format for receiving search results from said first search provider;

      registering a second response format for receiving search results from said second search provider;

      detecting a search request from a client browser to the web server for a search on a selected search provider from among said first search provider and said second search provider, said selected search provider corresponding to a corresponding search method from among said first search method and said second search method;

      in response to said detected request, instantiating a search context associated with the search request, the search context exposing a search method corresponding to the selected search provider and selected from among said first search method and said second search method,

      creating at least one web page and sending the at least one web page to the client browser, the at least one web page comprising a code behind object, the code behind object generating code that calls the method exposed in the search context ~~providing to the web server a ubiquitous search method for performing said search utilizing said corresponding search method, the ubiquitous search method being generic with regard to any of the first and second search providers and the corresponding search methods thereof~~; and

      responding to a call from the web server to said methods exposed in said search context ~~said ubiquitous search method~~ by performing said search on the selected

search provider utilizing said corresponding search method, receiving a search result from the selected search provider in a response format corresponding to said selected search provider, and providing said received search result to the web server in a ubiquitous format, the ubiquitous format being generic with regard to any of the first and second search providers and the corresponding formats thereof.

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, where said method comprises:
                reading search provider data regarding said first search provider and said second search provider from a configuration file.

4.   (Original)   The method of claim 3, where said method is implemented in conjunction with a web server, and where said configuration file is a web.config file.

5.   (Currently Amended) A method for a search framework to provide search functionality to a web server across at least two search providers, the search framework being interposed between the web server and each of the search providers, said method comprising in the search framework:
                registering a first search method ~~adapted to perform~~ for performing searches on a first of said at least two search providers;
                registering a second search method ~~adapted to perform~~ for performing searches on a second of said at least two search providers;
                registering a first response format for receiving search results from said first search provider;
                registering a second response format for receiving search results from said second search provider;
                detecting a search request from a client browser to the web server for a search on said first search provider and said second search provider;

in response to said detected request, instantiating a search context associated
with the search request, the search context exposing the first search method and the second
search method,

creating at least one web page and sending the at least one web page to the
client browser, the at least one web page comprising a code behind object, the code behind
object generating code that calls the first search method and the second search method
exposed in the search context ~~providing to the web server a ubiquitous search method for
performing said search utilizing said first search method and said second search method, the
ubiquitous search method being generic with regard to any of the first and second search
providers and the corresponding search methods thereof~~; and

responding to a call from the web server to said methods exposed in said
search context ~~said ubiquitous search method~~ by performing said search on the first search
provider utilizing said first search method and on the second search provider utilizing said
second search method, receiving a first search result from the first search provider in said first
response format from of said first search provider, receiving a second search result from the
second search provider in said second response format of said second search provider, and
providing said first and said second search results to the web server in a ubiquitous format,
the ubiquitous format being generic with regard to any of the first and second search
providers and the corresponding formats thereof.

6.   (Canceled)

7.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 5, where said step
of providing said first and said second search results comprises:

returning said first and said second search results in a unified format.

8.   (Original)   The method of claim 7, where said step of detecting a
request for a search on said first search provider and said second search provider comprises
receiving response format data, and where said step of providing said first and said second
search results comprises:

returning said first and said second search results according to said response format data.

9-11   (Canceled)

12.   (Currently Amended) A computer hardware system including a web server and a search framework to provide search functionality to the web server across at least two search providers, the search framework being interposed between the web server and each of the search providers, said system comprising as the search framework:

registration module for registering a first search method ~~adapted to perform~~ for performing searches on a first of said at least two search providers and for registering a second search method ~~adapted to perform~~ for performing searches on a second of said at least two search providers, and also for registering a first response format for receiving search results from said first search provider and registering a second response format for receiving search results from said second search provider;

search request detection module for detecting a request to the web server for a search on a selected search provider from among on said first search provider and said second search provider, said selected search provider corresponding to a corresponding search method from among said first search method and said second search method;

ubiquitous search method provision module for instantiating a search context associated with the search request, the search context exposing a search method corresponding to the selected search provider from among said first search method and said second search method,

creating at least one web page and sending the at lease one web page to the client browser, the at least one web page comprising a code behind object that generates code that calls the methods exposed in the search context ~~providing to the web server a ubiquitous search method for performing said search utilizing said corresponding method, the ubiquitous search method being generic with regard to any of the first and second search providers and the corresponding search methods thereof~~; and

ubiquitous search method response module for responding to a call from the web server to said methods exposed in said search context ~~said ubiquitous search~~

~~method~~ by performing said search on the selected search provider utilizing said corresponding search method, receiving a search result from the selected search provider in a response format corresponding to said selected search provider, and providing said received search result to the web server in a ubiquitous format, the ubiquitous format being generic with regard to any of the first and second search providers and the corresponding formats thereof.

13.   (Currently Amended) A computer hardware system including a web server and a search framework to provide search functionality to the web server across at least two search providers, the search framework being interposed between the web server and each of the search providers, said system comprising as the framework:

registration module for registering a first search method ~~adapted to perform~~ for performing searches on a first of said at least two search providers and for registering a second search method ~~adapted to perform~~ for performing searches on a second of said at least two search providers, and also for registering a first response format for receiving search results from said first search provider and registering a second response format for receiving search results from said second search provider;

search request detection module for detecting a search request from a client browser to the web server for a search on said first search provider and said second search provider;

ubiquitous search method provision module for, in response to said detected search request, instantiating a search context associated with the search request, the search context exposing the first search method and the second search method,

creating at least one web page and sending the at least one web page to the client browser, the at least one web page comprising a code behind object, the code behind object generating code that calls the first search method and the second search method exposed in the search context ~~providing to the web server a ubiquitous search method performing said search utilizing said first search method and said second search method, the ubiquitous search method being generic with regard to any of the first and second search providers and the corresponding search methods thereof~~; and

ubiquitous search method response module for responding to a call from the web server to <u>said methods exposed in said search context</u> ~~said ubiquitous search method~~ by performing said search on the first search provider utilizing said first search method and on the second search provider utilizing said second search method, receiving a first search result from the first search provider in said first response format from of said first search provider, receiving a second search result from the second search provider in said second response format of said second search provider, and providing said first and said second search results to the web server in a ubiquitous format, the ubiquitous format being generic with regard to any of the first and second search providers and the corresponding formats thereof.

14.   (Canceled)

15.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 13, where said first and said second search results are provided in a unified format.

16.   (Original)   The system of claim 15, where said search request detection module receives response format data, and where said first and said second search results are provided according to said response format data.

17.   (Canceled)